

the claim in full was rejected. Except for a claim described at 5 U.S.C. 5514, all installment payment arrangements must be in writing and require the payment of interest and administrative charges.

(1) Installment note forms including confess-judgement notes may be used. The written installment agreement must contain a provision accelerating the debt payment in the event the debtor defaults. If the debtor's financial statement discloses the ownership of assets which are free and clear of liens or security interests, or assets in which the debtor owns equity, the debtor may be asked to secure the payment of an installment note by executing a Security Agreement and Financial Statement transferring to the United States a security interest in the assets until the debt is discharged.

(2) If the debtor owes more than one debt and designates how a voluntary installment payment is to be applied among those debts, the Commission shall follow that designation. If the debtor does not designate the application of the payment, the Commission shall apply the payment to the various debts in accordance with the best interest of the United States as determined by the facts and circumstances of the particular case.

(c) *To whom payment is made.* Payment of a debt is made by check, money order, or credit card (VISA or MASTERCARD) payable to the Interstate Commerce Commission and mailed or delivered to the Budget and Fiscal Office, room 1330, Interstate Commerce Commission, Washington, DC 20423, unless payment is:

(1) Made pursuant to arrangements with the GAO or DOJ;

(2) Ordered by a Court of the United States; or

(3) Otherwise directed in any other part of this chapter.

§ 1018.30 Interest, penalties, and administrative costs.

(a) The Commission shall assess interest, penalties, and administrative costs on debts owed to the United States Government in accordance with the guidance provided under the Federal Claims Collection Standards, 4

CFR 102.13 unless otherwise directed by statute, regulation, or contract.

(b) Before assessing any charges on delinquent debts, the Commission shall mail a written notice to debtor explaining its requirements concerning these charges under 4 CFR 102.2 and 102.13.

(c) Interest begins to accrue from the date on which the initial invoice is first mailed to the debtor unless a different date is specified on a statute, regulation, or contract.

(d) The Commission shall assess interest based upon the rate of the current value of funds to the United States Treasury (the Treasury tax and loan account rate) prescribed by statute, regulation, or contract.

(e) Interest is computed only on the principal of the debt, and the interest rate remains fixed for the duration of the indebtedness, unless the debtor defaults on a repayment agreement and seeks to enter into a new agreement.

(f) The Commission shall assess against a debtor charges to cover administrative costs incurred as a result of a delinquent debt. Administrative costs may include costs incurred in obtaining a credit report or in using a private debt collector, to the extent they are attributable to the delinquency.

(g) The Commission shall assess a penalty charge of six percent a year on any portion of a debt that is delinquent for more than 90 days. The charge accrues retroactively to the date that the debt became delinquent.

(h) Amounts received by the Commission as partial or installment payments are applied first to outstanding penalty and administrative cost charges, second to accrued interest, and third to outstanding principal.

(i) The Commission shall waive collection of interest on the debt or any portion of the debt which is paid in full within 30 days after the date on which interest began to accrue.

(j) The Commission may waive interest during the periods a debt disputed under § 1018.26 is under investigation or review before the Commission. This additional waiver is not automatic and must be requested before the expiration of the initial 30-day waiver period.

The Commission may grant the additional waiver only when it finds merit in the explanation the debtor has submitted under § 1018.26.

(k) The Commission may waive the collection of interest, penalties, and administrative costs if it finds that one or more of the following conditions exists:

(1) The debtor is unable to pay any significant sum toward the debt within a reasonable time;

(2) Collection of interest, penalties, and administrative costs will jeopardize collection of the principal of the debt;

(3) The Commission is unable to enforce collection in full within a reasonable time by enforced collection proceedings; or

(4) Collection would be against equity and good conscience or not in the best interest of the United States, including the situation in which an administrative offset or installment payment agreement is in effect.

§ 1018.31 Use of credit reports.

The Commission may institute a credit investigation of the debtor at any time following receipt of knowledge of the debt in order to aid the Commission in making appropriate determinations as to:

(a) The collection and compromise of a debt;

(b) The collection of interest, penalties, and administrative costs;

(c) The use of administrative offset;

(d) The use of other collection methods; and

(e) The likelihood of collecting the debt.

§ 1018.32 Bankruptcy claims.

When the Commission receives information that a debtor has filed a petition in bankruptcy or is the subject of a bankruptcy proceeding, it shall suspend all collection actions against the debtor in accordance with 11 U.S.C. 362 and shall furnish information concerning the debt owed the United States to the Department of Justice's Nationwide Central Intake Facility to permit the filing of a claim.

§ 1018.33 Use and disclosure of mailing addresses.

(a) When attempting to locate a debtor in order to collect or compromise a debt under this part, the Commission may send a written request to the Secretary of the Treasury (or designee) in order to obtain a debtor's mailing address from the records of the Internal Revenue Service.

(b) The Commission may disclose a mailing address obtained under paragraph (a) of this section to other agents, including collection service contractors, in order to facilitate the collection or compromise of debts under this part, except that a mailing address may be disclosed to a consumer reporting agency only for the limited purpose of obtaining a commercial credit report on the particular taxpayer.

(c) The Commission and its agents, including consumer reporting agencies and collection services, must comply with the provisions of 26 U.S.C. 6103(p)(4) and applicable regulations of the Internal Revenue Service.

§ 1018.34 Additional administrative collection action.

Nothing contained in this part is intended to preclude any other administrative remedy which may be available.

Subpart C—Compromise of a Claim

§ 1018.50 When a claim may be compromised.

The Commission may compromise a claim not in excess of the monetary limitation if it has not been referred to GAO or DOJ for litigation. Only the Comptroller General of the United States or designee may effect the compromise of a claim that arises out of the exceptions made by the GAO in that account of an accountable officer, including a claim against the payee, prior to its referral by GAO for litigation.

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